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Items of Interest:

- Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class John T. Fralish, 30, of New Kingstown, Pa., died Feb. 6, when enemy forces opened fire on a U.S. patrol northwest of Methar Lam in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Fralish was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division Detachment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Hawaii.
- The Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) presents the 45th Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Conference held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, Va., March 18—23, 2006. NEHC's annual conference focuses on military medical readiness, deployment health, and "state-of-the-art" technology. For more information about the conference and to register, visit the conference website at www.nehc.med.navy.mil/

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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Navy Medical Officer Awarded Honorary Doctorate from Republic of Georgia

By Staff Sgt. Jonathan C. Moor,
Marine Forces Europe

TBILISI, Republic Of Georgia - Navy Capt. John A. Perciballi, the Georgia Sustainment and Stability Operations Program (GSSOP) U.S. Task Force medical officer from Naval Hospital Pensacola, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, Feb. 6.

Perciballi received the rare distinction because of the lecture series on combat medicine he gave at the university.

"It was a surprise to me," Perciballi stated. The honorary degree is an added distinction; however, Perciballi earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont and his medical doctorate from the Uni-

form Services University of Health Sciences, in Bethesda, Md.

Perciballi, who gave 11 lectures, was awarded the degree by the TSMU director during a formal ceremony.

"The idea came from the director and his faculty of the university," said Dr. Joseph Maisuradze, a specialist in resuscitation and external medicine at TSMU. "I was very glad to see this happen."

"Everyone on the faculty approved of the idea of awarding Dr. Perciballi an honorary degree," he said.

"I have attended all of the lectures and I find them very interesting and informative, especially because I work on the faculty of Critical External Medicine, formally

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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Vanessa Smith, assigned to Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU-6), examines an organism sample through a microscope. NEPMU-6 aids in the combat readiness of operational forces in the Pacific region by providing specialized environmental and preventive medicine support. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Ryan C. McGinley

Navy Corpsman Receives Thomas “Doc” Eagles Award

By Capt. Richard L. Haberberger and
Lt. J.g. George H. Sterns, Naval
Medical Research Center Public
Affairs

SILVER SPRING, MD - The 2005 Thomas “Doc” Eagles Award was presented to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/SW) Van-Troi Sibiliamartinez, who on March 23, 2003, during the battle of An Nasiriyah, “performed superbly in his duties as he performed combat life saving first aid on wounded Marines and organized medical evacuations” (award citation).

He assisted with numerous resupplies of ammunition, fuel, water, and food while under fire and showed little regard for his own safety while entering the city two times under heavy enemy fire to rescue a squad of stranded Marines.” Sibiliamartinez was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for his “zealous initiative, courageous actions, and exceptional dedication to duty.”

Z-Medica Corporation, a medical products company focused on innovative hemostatic nanotechnologies, presents the Thomas ‘Doc’ Eagles Award annually for life saving efforts utilizing the company’s hemostatic agents.

The Thomas ‘Doc’ Eagles Award is given to “the warfighter who puts the care of others above all consideration of self.” It is named for a highly decorated Navy corpsman who served in the Viet Nam war and then, as a civilian, took on the challenge of protecting today’s Marine or, as he puts it, “the kid in the ditch.” Eagles is responsible for the development of the Marine Corps Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK), a rugged, yet lightweight pack, which includes Z-Medica’s QuikClot brand hemostatic agent.

Sibiliamartinez treated one casualty who had an AK-47 gunshot wound to the shoulder and another who had taken an A-10 anti-armor round to the hip and buttocks area. Both of these life-threatening wounds were skillfully treated by Sibiliamartinez using QuikClot to rapidly stop the severe bleeding. In the first instance, unable to stop the bleeding using direct pressure and elevation, Sibiliamartinez packed QuikClot into the wound, stopping the bleeding within a few minutes. In the second case, he immediately applied QuikClot to a massive wound, which was bleeding profusely. Both patients survived. His award citation specified his ingenuity in application of QuikClot



under the peril and duress of the battlefield.

He was born in the Dominican Republic and later migrated to Brooklyn, New York. It is there he entered the Navy on 16 August 1999.

Sibiliamartinez’s personal decorations include Bronze Star Medal (with Combat Distinguishing Device), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal (2 awards), and several assorted unit and campaign awards.

Expeditionary Medical Facility Kuwait Gets Rehabbed

By Capt. Lee Cornforth, Camp Arifjan

CAMP ARIFJAN – The tents housing the U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait received repairs recently as teams from Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) Kuwait, Naval Expeditionary Medical Support Command (NEMSCOM) and Naval Medical Logistics Command (NAVMEDLOGCOM) worked around the clock to perform maintenance and upgrades to the facility.

Several tasks were completed during the one week evolution. More than 9,000 square feet of flooring was replaced, over 17,500 square feet of solar shielding was erected, operating room High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration systems were upgraded, environmental control units were recharged, and the electrical grid was enhanced.

The solar shields are designed to filter out sunlight and reduce interior tent temperatures. This is vital to patient care and interior temperatures can top 100 degrees F. The solar shields are hoped to reduce peak interior temperatures by as much as 10 degrees F.

Key to the extensive project was scheduling the work to occur without interruption or compromise to patient care. To do this, teams had to temporarily relocate critical areas such as Casualty Receiving (CASREC), equivalent to an emergency room, to other areas of the hospital. This proved invaluable as while the CASREC area was relocated, six emergency patients arrived and were treated without interruption.

The EMF Kuwait staffs the U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait and its nine satellite health clinics located throughout Kuwait and Qatar. EMF personnel are sourced from 26 different naval activities. This Navy Medicine team provides health care to U.S. and Coalition forces stationed in, or transiting through, the U.S. Army Forces Central Command area of responsibility to include Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Fleet Forces. This is the third year Navy Medicine has had this ongoing mission.

The U.S. Military Hospital Kuwait is a Level Three medical facility that provides both outpatient and inpatient care along with specialty services.

Al Asad Hospital Renamed After Hero Corpsman

By Cpl. James D. Hamel, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq - To honor and perhaps gain inspiration from one of their finest the corpsmen at Al Asad, Iraq, renamed their medical facility after Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Christopher Thompson, who was killed in action late last year, during a ceremony, Feb. 6.

Thompson, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, was serving his second tour in Iraq when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device, killing him and the Marines onboard.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Michael Stillford led the effort to rename the clinic because he said Thompson embodies the qualities corpsmen should strive to emulate. He said some of his fellow Sailors can get lost in their daily routine, not realizing the importance of the work they do.

"Having his name up there reminds us we're all family out here," said Stillford. "We don't always see the big picture, but we come to work every day to help each other and help our patients."

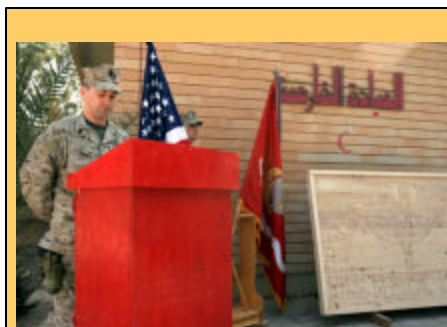
Many of the corpsmen who work at the clinic knew Thompson before

his death. Stillford went through Fleet Marine Medical School with him, where corpsmen learn what it takes to serve with Marines. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jonathan M. Penich remembers when Thompson first joined 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines.

"Thompson was a motivated kid," said Penich. "He really knew his stuff. He was a great corpsman who took care of his Marines."

Many Marines and their families benefited from Thompson's bravery and dedication. Corpsmen are famous for never leaving the side of their Marines, regardless of circumstance, and Thompson was no different. During Aug. 22, 2004, he saved the lives of Marines in his company during intense fighting in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. His actions that day were heroic enough to earn him a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat 'V', one of the Navy's highest awards for military valor.

"This is someone who we knew and affected our lives," said Stillford. "This renaming and dedication is a way for the corpsmen and all military personnel to remember someone who's gone before them,



AL ASAD, Iraq - Senior Chief Petty Officer Charles Forbes narrates the Feb. 6 ceremony that officially renamed Al Asad, Iraq's medical clinic after Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Thompson, who was killed in action during late 2005. *U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. James D. Hamel*

and remember who he was."

Stillford and those who took part in the dedication ceremony know they can never fully honor such a great sacrifice, but they refuse to let Thompson be forgotten. Al Asad's medical clinic is often the first place wounded military personnel go for emergency care. The clinic is on the frontlines in the war to save Marines' lives. Now, it's named after someone who gave his life for that cause.

Navy Medical Officer continued...

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called Military Medicine," said Maisuradze. "Critical medicine is very close to military medicine."

Perciballi's role in Georgia includes direct medical support to the GSSOP U.S. Task Force and medical training for Georgian troops.

"My stated mission is to provide medical support for the GSSOP Marines participating in this mission. There's quite a few live-fire exercises and we're here for any contingencies that may arise," said Perciballi. "An enhancement to that is we also took on the training mission, training the Georgian troops in elements of combat medicine as they transition from the old Soviet system to the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO) system."

Part of the GSSOP Task Force mission is to assist and enhance Georgia's capability to sustain its contribution to the effort in Iraq.

"After reporting aboard here for the GSSOP program I went to the medical school and talked with their head of Extreme Medicine about a combat medicine lecture series," said Perciballi. "They were very interested in combat medicine because with this war on terrorism," he added. "They're very interested in what we've done in the Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Perciballi has also been helping the school staff create a new curriculum for combat surgery and combat medicine.

According to Maisuradze, Perciballi's lecture series is the bases for a significant portion of TSMU's de-

veloping curriculum. "We now are developing training courses for students and doctors based on material given by Dr. Perciballi," Maisuradze said.

Perciballi opened the GSSOP Medical facility to the medical school senior faculty to show them what a Mobile Medical System with the latest medical technology looks like. The GSSOP Medical facility is a combination of a sick call and laboratory building and an MMS and boasts everything from mobile generators to a portable digital x-ray machine.

Perciballi's work with TMU is a clear illustration of how U.S. personnel working with foreign militaries have become involved in the greater well fare of the host nations they are working in.

Navy Environmental Health Center is Set to Launch “Crews Into Shape” Program

By Hugh Cox, Navy Environmental Health Center Portsmouth VA Public Affairs

PORTSMOUTH - The 6th Annual “Crews Into Shape” challenge, sponsored by the Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) begins March 6. The program, which runs from March 6 – 31, helps to foster a culture of fitness Navy and Marine Corps wide.

The goal of Crews Into Shape is to spark and guide workplace - focused, team-oriented, physical activity and improved nutrition (fruit and vegetable intake and fluid intake) among active duty Sailors and Marines, civilian workers and family members. According to Mr. Bob MacDonald, Crews Into Shape Program Coordinator and Health Educator with NEHC, “Crews Into Shape positively affects health-related behavior. In 2005, 1,700 people registered. Of the partici-

pants who completed the post-challenge questionnaire, 50% said they met their weight loss or weight gain goal, and an overwhelming majority agreed or strongly agreed that the Crews challenge helped them improve their daily habits regarding exercise (74%), fruit and vegetable intake (86%), and water intake (86%).” In fact, popularity for the challenge has expanded beyond Navy and Marine Corps to include Coast Guard teams as well.

MacDonald “manages” the program from his desk-top computer at NEHC. The post-challenge questionnaire, as well as the forms necessary for participating in the challenge, are web-based. Crew leaders receive frequent “Crews Notes” during the campaign to encourage their crew members. Crew names and locations are posted on the web where visitors to the website are also invited to vote online for the



“CrewsInest 2006 Crew” name.

For more information on the 2006 challenge, visit the Navy Environmental Health Center Crew Into Shape website at http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/crews_into_shape/index.htm.



CELEBES SEA - Medical personnel aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) perform a hernia operation. Reagan is currently underway on its maiden deployment in support of the global war on terrorism and maritime security operations. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Christine Singh

Naval Hospital Pensacola Earns Tops-in-Nation Award For Customer Satisfaction

By Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola was named the number one Department of Defense (DoD) medium-sized hospital in the nation for patient satisfaction Jan. 30, in Washington, DC.

"This is a great award because it recognizes our great staff that truly appreciates the fact we are part of a Pensacola community, in the military and out, that is so supportive of military efforts," NH Pensacola Commanding Officer, Captain Matt Nathan said.

The award was presented during opening-day ceremonies at the 2006 annual TRICARE Conference.

"We are doubly blessed," he said. "We have the finest staff in Navy Medicine providing world-class health care and the most supportive and best community around. Our staff never forgets for a minute what an honor it is to provide care for the men and women and their families who serve the military and protect our way of life."

It is the first time the Pensacola facility has been named the top hospital by DoD - although the facility has been in the Top 2 for customer satisfaction over the past several years.

In 2003, the Picker Institute, a world leader in the scientific measurement and improvement of patients' experiences and the promotion of patient-centered care, selected NH Pensacola with the internationally-acclaimed Institutional Achievement award for patient-centered initiatives, programs, leadership and focus of a service-oriented staff providing care to its patients.

In December 2005, the hospital went through a "tremendously successful" triennial accreditation survey and Navy Medicine inspector general review which has "given us more reason to celebrate," Nathan continued.

The accrediting organization, known as the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), lauded NH Pensacola with a "superb well-above average" survey, said Nathan.

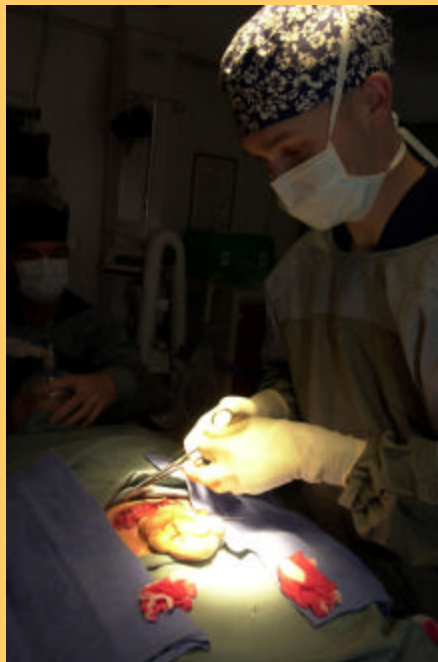
"And when you look at the parameters of our mission requirements, not only did we do well with JCAHO," he said, "but you've got to consider the extensive deployments our military personnel have, and still are, going through to protect our nation."

"It is a real testament to our staff and crew, considering that our command has the highest percentage of its staff deployed in the Global War on Terrorism," he continued. NH Pensacola has between 11-to-14 percent of its staff deployed at any one time compared to the Navy medicine average of 4 percent overall. The hospital has personnel deployed in Iraq, Kuwait, Eastern Europe, Cuba, and ships at sea.

Over the past few years, DoD has been measuring military medical commands' business metrics in order to make sure its military treatment facilities optimize their resources and provide the best production and access for the health care dollar.

NH Pensacola "vies for the lead in Navy Medicine for value of care and optimal cost utilization," said Nathan. "When you couple that with being the leader in patient satisfaction and being the most heavily deployed Navy Medical Command, it is a true testament to the passion, commitment, and mission focus of our staff."

But, the "most important award we win daily is the trust and confidence of each person who seeks our help," he added, "and that's our true measure."



PACIFIC OCEAN - Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class James Steele, simulates an operating procedure during traumatic abdominal evisceration training, in the medical ward aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). U.S. Navy photo by Lithographers Mate Seaman Rosa Shatusky



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